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10/056,173	01/24/2002	Krishna Seshadri	T152	9485

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06/25/2004

EXAMINER

LEE, CHRISTOPHER E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2112

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

5

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/056,173

Applicant(s)

SESHADRI, KRISHNA

Examiner

Christopher E. Lee

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

5 The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claim 21 recites the limitation "the user" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this  
10 limitation in the claim. Therefore, the term "the user" could be considered as --a user-- since it is not clearly defined in the claims.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

15 A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-16 and 18-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Athing et al.  
20 [US 5,987,498 A; hereinafter Athing].

*Referring to claim 1*, Athing discloses a communications system (i.e., credit card operated computer on-line service communication system; See title and col. 1, lines 6-8) providing user configuration (See col. 3, lines 13-15), comprising: at least one communications device (i.e., terminals at remote sites 34 in Figs. 1 and 2) configurable for a plurality of users (See col. 3, lines 13-30); a  
25 configuration request message (i.e., a message for user log-on session 202 in Fig. 6) generated by said communications device to initiate a configuration of said communications device (i.e., terminal at remote site is initiated the configuration with a specific user configuration by the user log-on procedure; See col. 7, lines 5-59); and a configuration response message (i.e., a retrieved user configuration 212 in Fig. 6)

received by said communications device (i.e., terminal) to enable configuration of said communications device (See col. 3, lines 13-30), wherein said configuration response message (i.e., retrieved user configuration 212 in Fig. 6) includes configuration information (i.e., configuration data) associated with at least one of said plurality of users (See col. 7, lines 35-37 and 40-48).

5        *Referring to claim 2*, Athing teaches a remote computer (i.e., control center 38 of Fig. 2) for generating said configuration response message (i.e., retrieving user configuration, which is stored in at the central control site inherently anticipates that a remote computer (control center) generates said configuration response message (user configuration data); See col. 3, lines 13-15).

10        *Referring to claim 3*, Athing teaches a plurality of configuration files (i.e., data files in configuration data server 68 of Fig. 3) associated with said plurality of users (See col. 5, lines 54-57).

*Referring to claim 4*, Athing teaches said configuration files (i.e., configuration data file) include at least one of authorization (See col. 3, lines 15-18), application (i.e., on-line network service; See col. 7, lines 25-39) and settings information associated with at least one user (e.g., display setting; See col. 3, lines 28-30).

15        *Referring to claim 5*, Athing teaches a user identification service (i.e., steps 202, 204 and 206 in Fig. 3) for processing login information (viz., log-on information) associated with at least one user (See col. 7, lines 9-24 and col. 10, lines 21-34).

*Referring to claim 6*, Athing teaches said login information includes at least one of a user name (i.e., Account name in Fig. 10) and a password (i.e., Password in Fig. 10).

20        *Referring to claim 7*, Athing teaches a message service (i.e., steps 202, 204 and 206 in Fig. 3) for transmitting login information (viz., log-on information) associated with at least one user (See col. 7, lines 5-34).

*Referring to claim 8*, Athing teaches a configuration service (i.e., step 212 in Fig. 3) for processing (i.e., retrieval processing) said configuration response message (i.e., retrieved user

configuration 212 in Fig. 6; See col. 7, lines 44-45) and updating (viz., setting up) said communications device (i.e., terminal at remote site 34 in Figs. 1 and 2) with said configuration information (See col. 7, lines 25-39).

Referring to claim 9, Athing teaches a logout service (i.e., log-off process) for sending updated user configuration information (i.e., saving any changed user configuration data received; See col. 13, lines 5-18).

Referring to claim 10, Athing teaches a user request service (i.e., steps 202, 204 and 206 in Fig. 3) for processing a login request (viz., starting user log-on session) associated with at least one user (See col. 7, lines 5-34).

Referring to claim 11, Athing teaches an authentication service (i.e., step 206 in Fig. 3) for verifying configurations that a user can access (See col. 14, lines 58-67).

Referring to claim 12, Athing teaches a record locate service (i.e., step 210 in Fig. 3) for searching (i.e., collecting) for configurations associated with a user (See col. 7, lines 30-37).

Referring to claim 13, Athing teaches a configuration message service (i.e., configuration retrieval processing step 212 in Fig. 3) for sending configuration information in said configuration response message (See col. 7, lines 40-48; i.e., wherein in fact that the user configuration data is retrieved from the central control site inherently anticipates a configuration message service for sending configuration information in said configuration response message).

Referring to claim 14, Athing teaches an update service (i.e., step 220 in Fig. 3) for updating configuration information (i.e., saving changed configuration data) that has changed by said user (See col. 7, lines 45-59).

Referring to claims 15 and 16, Athing teaches said communications device (i.e., terminal at remote site 34 in Figs. 1 and 2) is updated (viz., being set up) with a plurality of applications, i.e., at least

one application (i.e., a plurality of user log-on sessions), associated setting(s) (i.e., associated with user's configuration data, e.g., screen formats, screen colors, etc.; See col. 7, lines 25-39).

*Referring to claim 18*, Athing discloses a method (See Figs. 6 and 7) providing a configurable user interface (See col. 3, lines 13-15), comprising: generating a configuration request message (i.e.,  
5 initiating a configuration with a specific user configuration message for user log-on session 202 in Fig. 6; See col. 7, lines 5-59); generating a configuration response message (i.e., a retrieved user configuration 212 in Fig. 6) including configuration information (i.e., configuration data) for a communications device (i.e., terminals at remote sites 34 in Figs. 1 and 2) based upon said configuration request message (i.e., retrieved user configuration 212 in Fig. 6; See col. 7, lines 35-37 and 40-48); and configuring said  
10 communications device (i.e., terminal at the remote site) with said configuration information in said configuration response message (See col. 3, lines 13-30).

*Referring to claim 19*, Athing teaches sending an update message (i.e., sending a changed configuration data) from said communications device (i.e., terminal at remote site 34 in Figs. 1 and 2) to indicate user changes in said configuration information (See step 210 in Fig. 6; See col. 7, lines 45-52 and  
15 col. 7, line 66 through col. 8, line 7).

*Referring to claim 20*, Athing teaches updating records associated with said user changes in said configuration information (i.e., saving any changed user configuration data received; See col. 13, lines 5-18).

*Referring to claim 21*, Athing teaches transmitting login information (viz., log-on information)  
20 associated with a user (i.e., steps 202, 204 and 206 in Fig. 3; See col. 7, lines 9-24 and col. 10, lines 21-34).

*Referring to claim 22*, Athing teaches said login information includes at least one of a user name (i.e., Account name in Fig. 10) and a password (i.e., Password in Fig. 10).

*Referring to claim 23*, Athing teaches authenticating said login information (i.e., step 206 in Fig. 3; See col. 14, lines 58-67).

*Referring to claim 24*, Athing teaches generating an error message if said authentication fails (i.e., step 206 in Fig. 3; See col. 7, lines 19-23).

5       *Referring to claim 25*, Athing teaches generating a logout message (i.e., log-off process) to transmit updated user configuration information (i.e., saving any changed user configuration data received; See col. 13, lines 5-18).

10       *Referring to claim 26*, Athing discloses a system (i.e., credit card operated computer on-line service communication system; See title and col. 1, lines 6-8) providing a configurable user interface (See col. 3, lines 13-15), comprising: means for generating a configuration request message (i.e., means for initiating a configuration with a specific user configuration message for user log-on session 202 in Fig. 6; See col. 7, lines 5-59); means for generating a configuration response message (i.e., means for retrieving user configuration 212 in Fig. 6) including configuration information (i.e., configuration data) for a communications device (i.e., terminals at remote sites 34 in Figs. 1 and 2) based upon said configuration request message (i.e., retrieved user configuration 212 in Fig. 6; See col. 7, lines 35-37 and 40-48); and  
15       means for configuring said communications device (i.e., terminal at the remote site) with said configuration information in said configuration response message (See col. 3, lines 13-30).

20       *Referring to claim 27*, Athing teaches means for sending an update message (i.e., means for sending a changed configuration data) from said communications device (i.e., terminal at remote site 34 in Figs. 1 and 2) to indicate user changes in said configuration information (See step 210 in Fig. 6; See col. 7, lines 45-52 and col. 7, line 66 through col. 8, line 7).

*Referring to claim 28*, Athing teaches means for updating records associated with said user changes in said configuration information (i.e., means for saving any changed user configuration data received; See col. 13, lines 5-18).

*Referring to claim 29*, Athing discloses a communications system (i.e., credit card operated computer on-line service communication system; See title and col. 1, lines 6-8) providing user configuration (See col. 3, lines 13-15), comprising: at least one remote computer (i.e., control center 38 of Fig. 2) for storing configurations associated with a plurality of users (See col. 3, lines 13-18); a  
5 configuration request message (i.e., a message for user log-on session 202 in Fig. 6) processed by said remote computer (i.e., control center) to determine configurations associated with said plurality of users (See col. 7, lines 5-59); and a configuration response message (i.e., a retrieved user configuration 212 in Fig. 6) generated by said remote computer, wherein said configuration response message (i.e., retrieved user configuration 212 in Fig. 6) includes configuration information (i.e., configuration data) associated  
10 with at least one of said plurality of users (See col. 7, lines 35-37 and 40-48).

*Referring to claim 30*, Athing teaches a communications device (i.e., terminal at remote site 34 in Figs. 1 and 2) for receiving (i.e., retrieving) said configuration response message (i.e., a retrieved user configuration 212 in Fig. 6; See col. 7, lines 44-45) and utilizing said configuration information to configure (viz., setting up) said communications device according (i.e., terminal) to at least one of said  
15 plurality of users (See col. 7, lines 25-39).

*Referring to claim 31*, Athing discloses a communications system (i.e., credit card operated computer on-line service communication system; See title and col. 1, lines 6-8) providing user configuration (See col. 3, lines 13-15), comprising: at least one communications device (i.e., terminals at remote sites 34 in Figs. 1 and 2) configurable for a plurality of users (See col. 3, lines 13-30); at least one  
20 remote computer (i.e., control center 38 of Fig. 2) for storing configuration information (i.e., user configuration data) associated with said plurality of users (See col. 3, lines 13-18); a configuration request message (i.e., a message for user log-on session 202 in Fig. 6) generated by said communications device to initiate a configuration of said communications device (i.e., terminal at remote site is initiated the configuration with a specific user configuration by the user log-on procedure; See col. 7, lines 5-59); and



a configuration response message (i.e., a retrieved user configuration 212 in Fig. 6) generated by said remote computer (i.e., control center) to enable configuration of said communications device (See col. 3, lines 13-30), wherein said configuration response message (i.e., retrieved user configuration 212 in Fig. 6) includes configuration information (i.e., configuration data) associated with at least one of said plurality of users (See col. 7, lines 35-37 and 40-48).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5        The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

10            (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15        6.        Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Athing [US 5,987,498 A] as applied to claims 1-16 and 18-31 above, and further in view of Aho et al. [US 6,198,941 B1; hereinafter Aho].

20            *Referring to claim 17*, Athing discloses all the limitations of the claim 17 except that does not expressly teach said communications device comprises at least one of a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), palm pilot, cell phone, pager, and laptop computer.

Aho discloses a method of operating a portable communication device (See col. 1, lines 5-14), wherein said portable communication device (i.e., communications device) comprises a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), palm pilot, cell phone, and laptop computer (See col. 3, line 64 through col. 4, line 2).

25        Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used said portable communication device with said method of operation, as disclosed by Aho, for said communications device in said system, as disclosed by Athing, so as to change the communication arrangement (i.e., changes in the network or link level protocol parameters) that said

communications device is using if the change is determined to be imminent and significant (See Aho, col. 2, lines 31-43).

*Conclusion*

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5 Hütsch et al. [US 2001/0034771 A1] disclose network portal system and method.

Riggins [US 6,233,341 B1] discloses system and method for installing and using a temporary certificate at a remote site.

Rajsic [WO 01/07981 A2] discloses a system and method for providing remote access of information to a user in a familiar configuration.

10 Carlsen [US 5,550,907 A] discloses personal communication using intelligent terminals.

Wu et al. [US 5,774,551 A] disclose pluggable account management interface with unified login and logout and multiple user authentication services.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher E. Lee whose telephone number is 703-305-5950. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark H. Rinehart can be reached on 703-305-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Non-Final Office Action

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